

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1431

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor General Carl Wade Stiner, U.S. Army (retired), on his receipt of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to a native Tennessean who devoted thirty-five years of his life to the national security and defense of these United States; and

WHEREAS, General Carl Wade Stiner, U.S. Army (retired), has been honored by the U.S. Secretary of Defense with the prestigious Defense Distinguished Service Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster in recognition of his "exceptionally distinguished performance of duty"; and

WHEREAS, a native of LaFollette, General Stiner graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University) in 1958 with a Bachelor of Science degree; a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the school, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry of the U.S. Army upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, his first tour of duty in special operations was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group; following graduation from the Army Command and General Staff College in 1967, Carl W. Stiner served in the Vietnam War as both an Infantry Battalion and a Brigade Operations Officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, General Stiner joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, where he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, serving as the Division Operations Officer; after graduating from the Army War College in 1975 and serving a tour of duty in Saudi Arabia, he commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Training Brigade; and

WHEREAS, promoted to Brigadier General in 1980, Carl Stiner served first as the Chief of Staff, Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force and later as the Assistant Division Commander of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division; after serving on the Joint Staff in Washington as Assistant Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs, he was promoted to Major General in 1984 and appointed as Commanding General of the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, General Stiner held this post until he was assigned to serve as Commanding General, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in January 1987; in October 1988, he was named Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; and

WHEREAS, as Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps, he was designated Commander, Joint Task Force South and served as the Operational Commander of all forces employed on Operation Just Cause in Panama in December 1989; and

WHEREAS, in May 1990, Carl Stiner was promoted to General and became only the second Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Special Operations Command; in this position, he was responsible for the readiness of all special operations forces of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, both active duty and reserve; and

WHEREAS, General Stiner developed an extensive background and expertise in special operations during his thirty-five-year career by commanding the Army's preeminent contingency strike forces: the Joint Special Operations Command, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and the XVIII Airborne Corps; and

WHEREAS, among the many missions in which he was involved was the capture of the terrorists in the hijacking of the ship *Achille Lauro*, the Panama invasion and the capture of dictator Manuel Noriega (Operation Just Cause), and all special operations activities during Operation Desert Storm; and

WHEREAS, General Stiner retired from the Army in May 1993, having earned medals, awards, badges, and tabs too numerous to mention, but including the Army Distinguished

Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with Award Numeral 16, Army Commendation Medal with two Silver Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Stars; and

WHEREAS, inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2004, General Stiner has received the Freedom Foundation Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Tennessee Technological University, and the Army ROTC offices at Tennessee Tech have been renamed the "Carl W. Stiner Leadership Center" in his honor; and

WHEREAS, an approximately ten-mile stretch of Tennessee Highway 63 between his native LaFollette and Speedwell has also been named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, since retiring from the Army, General Stiner has co-authored *Shadow Warriors: Inside the Special Forces* with Tom Clancy, served as Chairman of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, and taught at the Joint War Fighting Course at the Joint Forces Staff College; and

WHEREAS, General Carl W. Stiner is a military officer of rare dedication, loyalty, and ability, and he is most worthy of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor General Carl Wade Stiner, U.S. Army (retired), on his receipt of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal and salute his astute and courageous service to his country as a special operations commander.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.